Proceedings of the Mysore Representative Assembly, 1908.

MEMORANDUM.

The twenty-fifth session of the Assembly of Representative Raiyats and Merchants was held in the Durbar Hall of the Public Office Buildings at Mysore on Thursday, the 8th October 1908, and succeeding days.

In accordance with the system of triennial election instituted in 1894, the Taluk members elected in 1906 continued to hold their seats this year also. The total number of representatives returned was 271, as shown below :—

Representatives from 68 taluks, including sub-taluks	201
Representatives from 27 Municipalities with a population of 5,000 and above	42
Representatives from 8 Local Boards	16
Representatives from 12 Associations	12
Total ...	271

Of these—

5 were Europeans,
18 Mahomedans, and
248 Hindus.

Arranged according to occupation—

38 were merchants,
11 were sahukars or bankers,
69 were village officers (patels and shanbhogs),
111 were land-holders,
19 were lawyers,
2 were schoolmasters, and
21 followed other professions.

Two hundred and twenty-six members attended on the first day of the Session, the attendance being the largest since the year 1895. The sittings were concluded on Thursday the 15th October, the attendance on that day being 63.

On the opening day the Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Fraser, I.C.S., C.I.E., the British Resident in Mysore, and other European guests of His Highness the Maharaja were present. The members of the State Council, the heads of the various departments and other principal officers of the State were also present. At 12 noon the Dewan, Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., opened the proceedings by reading the annual address to the members. A Kanarese translation was subsequently read by the General and Revenue Secretary to Government.

Mr. Arthur Gifford (on behalf of the Kolar Gold Fields Mining Board), Mr. Crawford (on behalf of the South Mysore Planters' Association), Mr. C. J. Haudin, (on behalf of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association of Mysore and Coorg, Ltd., Bangalore), Mr. A. Anniah Pandit (a representative of the Yedatore Taluk), Mr. Hassan Ali Beg (on behalf of certain representatives) and Mr. Srinivas Sitaram Kulkarni (a representative of the Harihar Sub-Taluk) read addresses, which, along with the Dewan's reply, are printed in Appendix A.

The representations made by the members were discussed from the 9th to 15th October 1908 (both days inclusive). The body of this report contains a summary of the discussions and the replies given by the Dewan.

At the close of the discussions on the 15th October, Messrs. Krishna Sastri, Hanumantha Rao and Dervish Peer thanked the Dewan on behalf of a large number of members for the patient hearing given to their representations and for having disabused their minds of misconceptions in regard to the Press Law. They were grateful to the Government for introducing a scheme for imparting moral and religious instruction in the schools and colleges in the State and for the Village Tank Panchayet Bill. They enlarged on the benefits accruing to the people from the holding of the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition annually and from the series of interesting lectures delivered and practical demonstrations shown in connection with it. They also expressed satisfaction at the kind reception accorded to the representatives and for the excellent arrangements made for their comfort and concluded with prayers for the welfare of His Highness the Maharaja.

The Dewan thanked the Representatives for their good wishes and expressed the hope that the Assembly would continue to do useful work for the public in the future as in the past. He promised to submit their expression of gratitude to His Highness the Maharaja.

According to Government Notifications Nos. J. 829-37—Legis. and J. 4, dated the 17th September 1908, and 4th October 1908, respectively, the members of the Assembly met on the 10th October to select and recommend two members for nomination to the Legislative Council. Mr. M. Venkatakrishnayya of Mysore and Mr. D. Venkataramayya of Bangalore received a majority of the votes; but Government in the exercise of the power reserved under Rule 5 of the rules issued under Notification No. 102, dated the 10th June 1908, disapproved of the recommendations made and directed a fresh election to be held on the 16th October. As the attendance on the concluding days of the session of the Assembly had largely fallen off, a large majority of the members present expressed a desire to have the election postponed to the next year. This was acceded to by Government.

The orders of Government relating to the election and certain other papers are printed in Appendix B.

K. S. CHANDRASEKHARA AIYAR,
Secy. to Govt., Gen. & Rev. Depts.

26th November 1908.